



# ARFhouse Happenings

A non-profit, tax-exempt organization

FALL 2008 #2  
VOLUME 10, ISSUE 4



## ADOPTIONS



### The Story of “Dennis the Menace”

by Martha Hovers

“Dennis” was a resident of ARFhouse for several years. He was one of my house dogs. Dennis was a child who always wanted to be the center of attention, but with 360 other children....it’s difficult to single one out. However, he was so smart and theatrical, it was hard to ignore him. He had perfect manners, slept on the sofa at night and ran and supervised everyone during the day. Everyone who visited ARFhouse would ask about him and if he was available for adoption. I always declined because his guardian had to be “perfect.”

When Ralf and Kim called to explain that their friend, Virginia Deering, wanted to adopt, and that her dog had died a while back, we made some arrangements for her to come and visit us. The moment

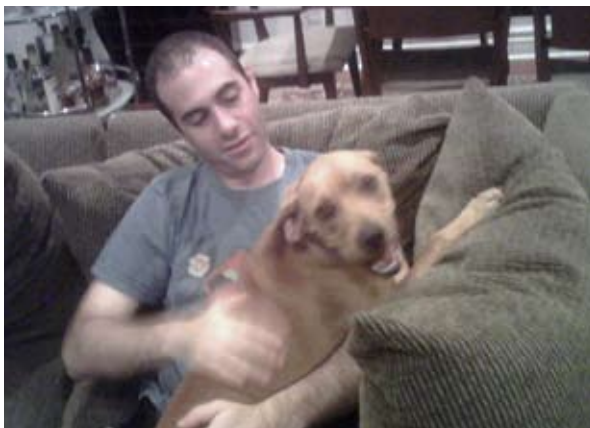
I met Virginia I was struck by her poise and kindness and the fact that although it was obvious she was a very



regal lady, she didn’t mind “mixing it up” with the dogs. She seemed energized by our pack. After riding around and visiting several of the areas and the adoptable dogs, she wanted to know about Dennis. I told her that many people had asked to adopt him, but that no one had passed muster. However, if she decided on Dennis, she could have him.

You can probably guess the outcome: he slept at the foot of her bed. They are now inseparable. Virginia is the guardian Dennis

had been waiting for these past years. We were just a temporary stop on his way to the good life.



### “Buddy” Finds a Forever Home

Linda Widmer writes the following:

“Your Buddy, our Dooley, went home tonight. He loves to hug, like a person. He will put his arms around you like he’s giving you a hug just like a person would. When other dogs snap at him he just turns away and ignores it.

He was adopted this evening by a couple with two cats and one other dog – a little Yorkie mix – and they already sent me pictures of him. They are both attorneys. I think Dooley will have a great life!”

# ARFHOUSE STAFF

by: Martha Hovers

Occasionally we show you our staff with the dogs, and thought it was time to do it again.



Me (Martha Hovers) with the three dogs taken from the Aussie Rescue. "Solomon" is the big tri-color with his head in my lap.



(Left) Here's our Operations Manager, **Sammie Kershaw**, who also lives on-site. She's ready to roll with her crew, all ARFhouse rescued dogs. (Right) This was such a wonderful picture of Sammie with two of our most recently rescued dogs, Tammy and Reggie, I had to include it in this newsletter!



**Diana Upton** takes special care of the smaller dogs that arrive at ARFhouse. She lives on-site, keeps these guys in her yard during the day, and inside at night. We're fortunate to have staff who have their own special talents with animals and caring for them.



**Sherri Harpold** is very special to "Jake," as well as most of the dogs of ARFhouse. She makes friends with even the most unfriendly dogs and gives all of them equal love and care.



**Bo Kershaw** (Sammie's husband) is a volunteer. He tends our cemetery, picks up dog food, takes dogs to the vet, and does some golfcart and lawn mower repairs for us. He's always willing to help out any time we need him. (He's also a snake charmer and will carry them out of our houses by the tail when they curl up inside kitchen cabinets.)



**Mary** is an ARFhouse staple. She's been here for 13 years, tending to a large set of kennels every morning. She's as reliable as the sun coming up.



**Jana Brunson** is fearless when handling the dogs. Like all of the people who work here, she loves the dogs, and they sense that love. When we need to put a dog in a crate or move a dog, we know Jana can coax or lure him wherever we need him to go.



**Kirk Knowlton** is our farrier. He's not an employee, but so handsome, we wanted to include his picture. Besides, he takes excellent care of our four shetland ponies; trimming their hooves every six weeks. These ponies were somewhat wild when Kirk began coming to ARFhouse, but they took to him almost immediately. Makes our lives easier. No rodeo for us girls.



# CHICAGO OR BUST!



August 6, 2008 — “The Chicago Trio” leaving ARFhouse, headed for Chicago, in a cargo van with 27 of our dogs. Pictured here are Bob Martinez, Linda Widmer, and Joe Cairo. By the end of three weeks, through their PetFinder site and adoption events in the windy city, only five of the dogs were waiting for a forever home. We’re grateful to these friends for all the work they do to help us and the animals.



Our little “Duffy,” the mini-dachshund, found a home with a young man who adores him. That’s obvious from this picture. Within two weeks all but five of the ARFhouse dogs were already in their forever homes.



“Bertha” (now called “Beatrice”) was a dog abandoned near Ralf & Kim’s home in Paris. They already have “Black Dog Ranch” with 10 black dogs, and a red pit bull wasn’t going to fit in. Naturally we accept any dog that Dr. Poineal and Dr. McNeal call us about. We were uneasy about putting “Bertha” with another dog since she is a pit bull. When the Chicago trio

came in August, we had put Bertha in the cabin yard. Linda fell in love with her and took her back to Chicago, with the other 26 dogs. Bertha... now “Beatrice” is the nicest dog they have ever encountered. She loves cats, people, and all dogs. She hasn’t found her forever home yet, but we’re confident that she will very soon.



Here’s “Ursula,” (left) one of the puppies with her new friend. She took the long trip to Chicago and immediately found her forever guardian and friend.



I’m “Rosie.” I used to live in a yard with another dog. He and I got along OK, but every time a thunderstorm came up I would jump to the top of those 6’ kennels and walk on the top of them like I was a high wire walker. Then the nice people at ARFhouse started feeding me some special canned food over at the cabin, next to my old yard. The cabin has a 4’

fence around it, but I’m happy to stay inside, even when the weather is bad. I can stay on the little porch or the big dog house out in the yard. As long as I get that canned food two times a day, I’m not so scared. Heh heh.



I’m “Hector,” and I was born deaf. But my eyesight is fine and I’ll come running to you if you motion for me. We came from Texas Aussie Rescue after the man who rescued us passed away. That’s “Callie” in the dog house behind me. She has a crippled leg, but she gets around fine.

## DOG FANCY MAGAZINE

Watch for the January issue of DOG FANCY. They're doing a piece on three sanctuaries and we're fortunate enough to be one of those.

## DOGS TO CHICAGO

Last newsletter we featured "Spice Girl," "Tater," "Dot," "Cinnamon," and "Chief." All of these dogs have found forever homes through our Chicago affiliate. "Elam" went to Boston Terrier rescue and "Gus" went to Pekingese rescue. Both of them have been adopted. Of course, "Edsel" is still here and has chosen to stay here with his best buddy "Diesel."

## Thanks

### TO THE PEOPLE WHO HELP OUR DOGS

Louis & Fay Elrod  
Tom Thumb Distribution Center  
IESI  
Oreck Corporation  
Sherman Wal-Mart  
Denison Wal-Mart  
Danny & Dr. John Brakebill  
Stacey & Dr. Clay Morris  
Brakebill Veterinary Clinic Staff  
Jennifer Hillary  
Niemann Publications  
Linda Widmer  
Melinda Green  
Donna Francis  
David Martinson

## NOTE FROM MARTHA HOVERS

We asked for your help and you answered. In spite of the fact that everyone is suffering through a difficult recession, many of you opened your hearts (and wallets) to help us in response to the appeal of our last newsletter. We recognize that in times like these, people sacrifice in order to help the animals. We are very grateful. Every donation counts and has a positive impact in the lives of the dogs. The more support we receive, the more dogs we are able to rescue and place in the adoption program.

### *In Memory of Roger Pierce*

Roger Pierce recently passed away suddenly. His dog, "Butkus," was left with no guardian. When Roger's sisters arrived at ARFhouse's gate one Sunday afternoon with their tearful story, Sammie couldn't turn them away. "Butkus" has come to live here at ARFhouse, and he seems quite content in his yard. Roger's friends and family have made donations in honor of "Butkus" and in memory of Roger:

Pierce Siblings (Roger's brother & sisters)  
Linda Barker (Roger's baby sister)  
James & Beverly Sims  
Maxine Hester  
Anna Overson  
J.P. Morgan Chase  
John Slocum & Catherine Davis  
of the Boerne Banking Center  
Karen Ripley Real Estate  
Karen Ripley, Marcie Marcontonio, & Cindy Ferguson



Meet "Butkus"...We didn't give him this name; he arrived with it. Obviously he'll be making a trip to see Dr. Brakebill or Dr. Morris soon. His guardian passed away suddenly, but had made arrangements for his beloved "Butkus" to come here. He's a sweet natured older dog, and seems content even though his life and routines have changed dramatically.

### WISH LIST

Bio-Spot  
Comfortis  
(flea product)  
Pedigree  
Canned Food  
Scissors


## SPECIAL THANKS

SPECIAL THANKS to **Teresa and Hinkki Chen** of **GCI Technologies** in Plano, Texas, for their generous support for so many years, after reading Bob St. John's column about us in THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS nine years ago.

ARFhouse's newsletter is published by the Animal Refuge Foundation, 3377 Spalding Rd., Sherman, TX 75092. Phone (903) 564-7056. Martha Hovers, Editor. **ARFhouse Directors:** Danny Brakebill, Martha Hovers, LuRuth Taylor.

If you would like to see our newsletter in color, go to the homepage of our website and click on the little page in the left corner.

## Brakebill Veterinary Hospital Made The Following "In Memory" Donations

<p style="text-align: center;">"Monroe" Maureen &amp; Joe Lahti</p> <p style="text-align: center;">"Lucky" Mr. &amp; Mrs. Bobby Ray</p> <p style="text-align: center;">"Abbie" Mr. &amp; Mrs. Carl Carnal</p> <p style="text-align: center;">"Susie" Linda Robertson</p> <p style="text-align: center;">"Jake" Mr. &amp; Mrs. Roger Bateman</p> <p style="text-align: center;">"Cashmere" Mr. &amp; Mrs. Monte Walker</p> <p style="text-align: center;">"Teddy" Sherry &amp; Shannon Hocking</p> <p style="text-align: center;">"Puss Puss" Tammy Nichols</p> <p style="text-align: center;">"Boston" Kathy Shaffer</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">"Tinker" Glenda Kelley</p> <p style="text-align: center;">"Billie" Karen Lawson</p> <p style="text-align: center;">"Reno" Mr. &amp; Mrs. Archie Sutton</p> <p style="text-align: center;">"Lexie" Mr. &amp; Mrs. Van Heineman</p> <p style="text-align: center;">"Angel" Mr. &amp; Mrs. Kenneth Bell</p> <p style="text-align: center;">"Nikki" Ms. Deloris Dowell</p> <p style="text-align: center;">"Sienna" Dr. James Harrison &amp; Dr. Karen Nelson</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">"Spanky" Mr. &amp; Mrs. Sale Omohundro</p> <p style="text-align: center;">"Chubby" Velora Kilpatrick</p> <p style="text-align: center;">"Katie" Carol Daeley</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>In Memory of</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Nathan Molina "loving Father to Elizabeth &amp; Grandfather to Matthew and David" from: Alicia, Richard &amp; Marilynn</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>In Memory of Animal Lovers</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mrs. E. P. Uphouse "My Mother" by: Lynda Uphouse</p> <div style="text-align: center;"></div>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>In Honor</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">"Red" &amp; "Blackie" Two dogs rescued by Debbie Rodgers by: Carlotte &amp; Marlin Cobb</p> <p style="text-align: center;">"Gypsy," "Dakota," "Gracie," "Maggie," &amp; "Yuber" "my 4-legged &amp; 3 legged family" by: Celeste &amp; Mitch Malicoate</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Liz &amp; Bill "We miss seeing you" Marilynn Barren</p> <p style="text-align: center;">"To honor all of ARFhouse animals; past, present &amp; future" by: Tammy &amp; Johnny Shoemaker</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Brakebill Veterinary Hospital M.C. (Margaret) Graham</p>

### *Donations In Memory of Beloved Pets*

Thank you to those of you who thought of ARFhouse and our animals in your time of sorrow.

<p style="text-align: center;">"Fae" &amp; "Allie" by: Jane Crout</p> <p style="text-align: center;">"Toni" Ron &amp; Terry Cullen</p> <p style="text-align: center;">"Elvis" &amp; "Lucky" Steven &amp; Latressa Melton</p> <p style="text-align: center;">"Talulah Schulz" Beloved cat of Sonja, Jeff &amp; Natalie Schulz by: Nana Jane &amp; Pawpaw Ron "Talulah was a gorgeous tortoise shell cat who was always 'queen' of her house. She was greatly loved, and will be missed sorely."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">"Pax" elder English Setter "Ebony" precious cat Roger &amp; Sherry Harvey</p> <p style="text-align: center;">"Casey" "beloved dog of Gretchen Knauff &amp; Holly Thomen" Ms. Gerri Thomen</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">"Tisha" "a beloved little girl who will be forever missed." Joan Bigley</p> <p style="text-align: center;">"Specs" Nancy Hampton</p> <p style="text-align: center;">"Apache" Celeste &amp; Mitch Malicoate</p> <p style="text-align: center;">"Rowdy" "Beloved companion of Josh and best friend and caretaker of Marline. Meet you at the Rainbow Bridge." Marlin &amp; Charlotte Cobb</p> <p style="text-align: center;">"Riley" Ray &amp; Judith Parker</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">"Dirk" (a.k.a. "Baby T") "He met up with a rattler that was too much for him, and I lost him too early." Julia McCullough</p> <p style="text-align: center;">"Petie" and "Paulie" Two very sweet kitties Dr. Corey Kershaw</p> <p style="text-align: center;">"In memory of a little bunny" Ellie Molloy tried to rescue on her street, but he died enroute to the vet.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">"Shadow" John &amp; Carol Coffelt's faithful black lab who recently passed away from cancer. by: Judith Arrington</p>
<p style="margin: 0;"><b>REMEMBERING OUR JETHRO</b></p> <p style="margin: 0;">Rick &amp; Ronda Rehder, who sponsored Jethro for so many years, wrote the following note: "Please continue to accept my support in honor of Jethro's wonderful spirit, endless sense of humor and lovable personality. Thank you for giving him the blessing of a wonderful life. I'm sure he will watch over 'his' ARFhouse always. We will miss him."</p>		

**We appreciate your continued support of ARFhouse.**

***Be an ARFhouse Supporter!***

ARFhouse needs and welcomes your donation in any denomination. Every dollar counts and is used for day-to-day operations, care of our animals, and assistance to animals in the community. Your donation is tax deductible. Please send your gift in the enclosed envelope to ARFhouse, 3377 Spalding Rd., Sherman, TX 75092.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_



## Mission Statement

Animal Refuge Foundation (ARFhouse) is a care-for-life, no-kill sanctuary in a rural setting and is home to 340+ dogs. Dedicated to improving the lives of animals through rescue and rehabilitation, spay/neuter and placing animals into homes with loving guardians, ARFhouse also assists animals whose owners are unable to pay for the sterilization of their animals, particularly elderly people who are on fixed incomes. The Foundation will also provide financial assistance for any stray animal found who requires emergency medical attention. One of our major goals is to relieve suffering and to provide contentment and happiness to any dog who crosses our threshold.

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Phone (903) 564-7056

Website address: [www.arfhouse.org](http://www.arfhouse.org)

Animal Refuge Foundation

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